

Some Side Lights on the Stolid Slav Soldier

If the Russian soldier's strong points could be summed up in two words, those two words would be hardihood and obedience. He has a thick chest, a thick neck, a thick skull. The climate in which he and his ancestors were raised has left on him its indelible stamp. He is inured to cold, has an endurance that is well nigh inexhaustible and is as level and monotonous in his disposition as his own treeless steppes and plains. Withal, however, he possesses a certain stolid cheerfulness, is gregarious and social in his rough way and is a ferocious fighter.

Set over against these elements of strength are certain kindred weaknesses. The most notable of these are ignorance and lack of initiative. He is fundamentally a barbarian, with the physique of a cave dweller. He would be perfectly at home with a great knotted warclub or a battle-axe. Naturally he is not a good shot, as he does not take careful aim, but blazes away regardless. He prefers rather the close hand to hand fighting with the bayonet. Brave he is, with the bravery of the brute. He knows little about retreating or giving or receiving quarter. If the tide goes against him he fights on with the doggedness of despair and will stolidly stand until shot down in his tracks, apparently without a thought of flight. The only time that he becomes panic stricken is when his officers are killed, and then it is the panic of confusion rather than that of fear.

As he fights so he marches. His fare is simple, and his wants are few. Raised as a serf in a log hut with one room, a serf he remains when he wears the uniform of the czar. He is uncomplaining, slow footed, methodical and patient. He is hairy, ruddy of face, with great physical vigor and the hardness of iron. He is large of frame and hulking in gait. He lives on sour soups, black bread, heavy concoctions of vegetables and dried fish. Of late years some little meat has been introduced into his food. He eats much, but has nothing of the epicure in his makeup. Simplicity of diet is a great strength to an army, for it makes the transportation of commissary supplies less difficult and leaves the soldiers better satisfied with the rough fare secured by foraging.

No hardship is sufficient to daunt the Slav on the march. He will cross mountains through the most extreme cold, endure any privations, go without food, sleep on the ground, care nothing for dirt or tattered clothes and will ford or swim an ice cold stream without a murmur. One instance is recorded of a Russian army in the war with Turkey stripping and wading a stream through a thin scum of ice and dressing again in the snow in order that their clothing might be kept dry



RUSSIAN GRENADEIER

The Muscovite troops are clumsy enough, except on horseback. They are born riders. In the saddle they take on a dash and agility strangely out of keeping with their ordinary slow and stolid character. There is no better cavalry in the world than that of the czar. The horses have the same endurance as the men, with the same power of withstanding cold and fatigue. It is among the cavalry that the famous Cossack appears, the Russian

cult movement of the legs with the body in a squatting position. This is especially popular among the Cossacks, who often indulge it even on the march. Marching discipline is not very strict in the Russian army. The men carry their guns as they please, and if an infantryman wishes to get out of ranks and do a dance for the amusement of the passing columns he does so, after which he trots on and catches his command, or if a cavalryman cares

singing. In place of the usual military bands the Russian army has what are known as singing brigades. The national airs are rather somber and mournful and are sung with a peculiar howling and sometimes even in soblike tones that have an indescribably weird effect. In camp, on the march and going into battle these songs are chanting, often by a whole army in chorus. One of the forms of drill consists of a bayonet charge against dummy fig-

more efficient at hand to hand fighting than at long range.

In spite of the complete subservience to authority, there is some little democracy between officers and men in the Russian army, especially in the more lax life of camp. Here rather rough jesting is frequently indulged in by shoulder strap and private, seemingly on terms of perfect equality. On the march or when drawn up at parade a colonel or a general will frequently roar out a question to an entire regiment or even a brigade, and the men will reply in chorus. But there is no assumption of equality at these times. It is always "your highness" or "your excellency" or "your high nobility." Ivan the moujik, even though he wears a uniform, is not permitted to forget that he is a moujik. If he does—well, private soldiers are sometimes flogged to death in the armies of the czar.

Early rising is the order, the cavalry regularly getting out at 4 o'clock. There are gymnastic exercises, fencing and other drills to take up the spare time, and there is no lagging. The knout assures that.

Religious exercises are held daily. The Slav is very devout and very superstitious. The czar to him is second only to the Trinity, and not very far second either. He observes every form, does the moujik soldier, and especially every religious festival that will permit him to drink vodka. To him Russia is "holy Russia," and every war is to aggrandize his church.

One feature lately introduced into each regiment is a corps of sixty-four specialists. These are the picked men, the best runners, the best swimmers, the sharpshooters, climbers, sappers and hunsmen. They build bridges, forage and perform other extraordinary service.

Another noteworthy feature of the Russian military is the camp kitchen which accompanies every company on the march. It is a big, open-air affair set between two wheels. It does away with tinny rations and gives the men the advantage of cooked food.

The contrast between the Slav and his foe, the Jap, is so marked that it forces itself upon the attention. One is as large and stolid as the other is small and eager. One is as slovenly and careless of appearance as the other is neat and tidy. The Russ depends upon his horse; the Jap scarcely knows its use. The soldier of the czar is heavy and somber; the soldier of the mikado is light and happy. The one is gruff and hairy; the other beardless and suave. One is primitive and other is up to date, scientific and depends on skill of maneuver and marksmanship. Yet in some points they are alike. Both are brave, both live on simple fare and have great endurance, both are fatalists, and both regard their emperor as a sort of deity for whom they are glad to die.

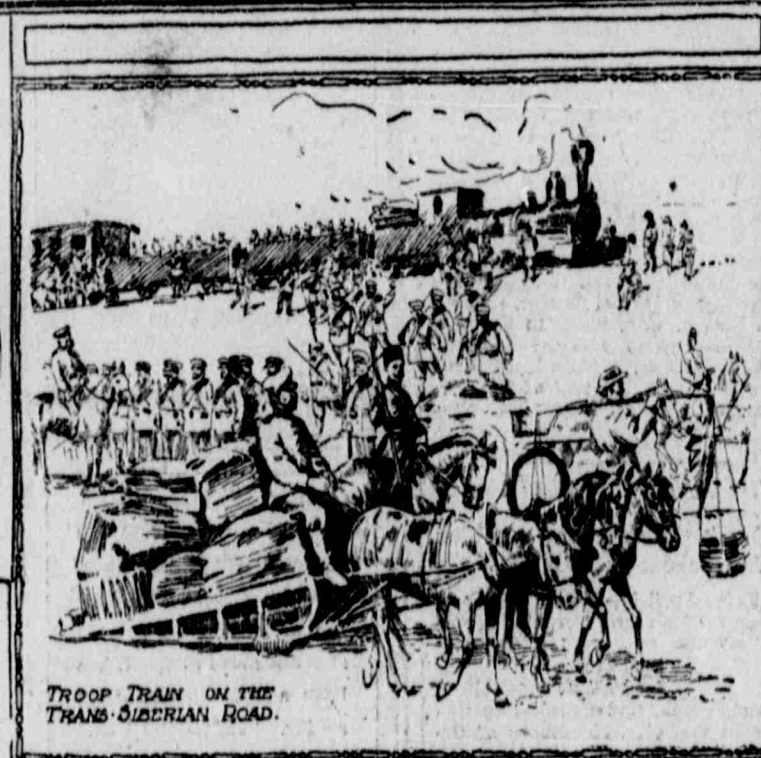
TRUMAN L. ELTON.



COSSACKS ON THE YALU RIVER.



COSSACK OFFICERS IN MANCHURIA.



TROOP TRAIN ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROAD.

so that it would not freeze on their bodies.

In crossing broad streams rude boats made of oiled canvas and wagon rigging are frequently employed. At other times driftwood is strapped together and used as rafts.

The Russian uniform consists of a rather long and baggy rack coat, trousers that disappear in high topped boots strong and heavy of sole, and caps that flare at the top.

rough rider, whose trade is fighting and whose home is in the saddle.

In camp the amusements of the Slav are as simple as his character or as his life in his native country village. Whenever he is permitted he gets drunk on vodka. At other times he plays old fashioned games and dances or sings. The Russian dance is a feature in itself. It consists in what is sometimes called in America "the turkey dance," a rather violent and dif-

to dismount and go through the same amusing evolution it is not ordinarily denied him. Stranger yet than the dance is the

ures that swing at freedom in upright frames. This sort of training takes the place of target practice in other armies. As a consequence the Slav is much

GIOVANNI GIOLITTI, PREMIER OF ITALY.

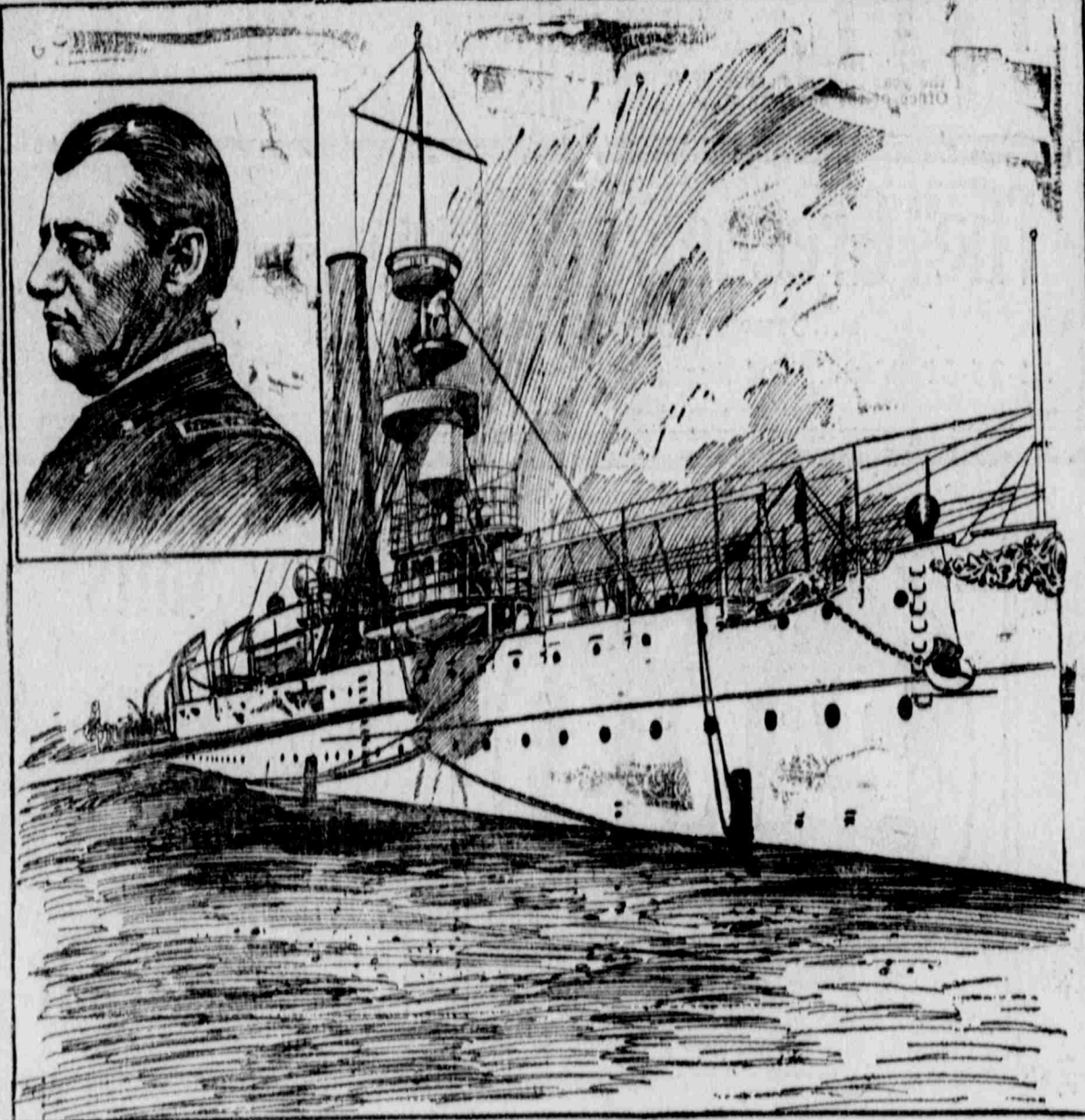
A man of unique personality is Giovanni Giolitti, successor to Zanardelli in the premiership of Italy. Personally he is tall and by no means good looking, but he impresses all with whom he comes into contact as being a man of power. He is essentially democratic, assumes the greatest simplicity of dress, but is at ease in any company. While Giolitti held the portfolio of the interior he made it manifest that he



was the moving spirit of the cabinet, and his selection as premier was no surprise to those acquainted with the situation. This is not the first time he has taken the helm of state, for he was premier in 1892-93, when he was compelled to resign in consequence of his proceedings against the Banca Romana, and he was succeeded by Crispien. While premier, Giolitti consistently sought to ameliorate the condition of the working classes. He has been connected with the political life of Italy for thirty-seven years. He was born in 1842.

LUCKY ACCIDENTS.

Just over a year ago a boy nine years of age who had been totally blind in his left eye almost from birth was thrown from a bicycle and very much bruised about the left side of his face and head. A doctor dressed the wounds, and when the bandage was removed a few days later the boy surprised his parents by exclaiming, "Oh, I can see with both eyes!" A test proved that his sight had been restored, so one boy at least will have good cause to be thankful that he ever met with a cycling accident. Not long ago, too, there was a serious fire at the asylum of Mombello, near Milan, and the fright caused by this untoward occurrence so affected four of the inmates that their reason was restored.



REAR ADMIRAL EVANS AND THE GUNBOAT HELENA.

Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans is in command of the Asiatic squadron, to which the gunboat Helena is attached. The Helena, with some war vessels belonging to other nations, was laid up in mud dock in Newchwang just before the cold weather set in. The Russians, according to Commander Marshall of the Helena, intend to block the harbor by sinking hulks at the entrance, so as to prevent the Japanese from attacking from the sea. The vigorous protest by the United States government against this contemplated action is not likely to decrease the present violent dislike of the Russians for everything American.

JAB AT INFIDELS.

After the opening meeting of the Religious Education association's recent convention in Philadelphia, the Rev. Erasmus Blakelee of Boston entertained Dr. Frederic Tracy and Dr. Halney Guile with stories of his youth.

"A friend of mine at college," this learned editor said, "was a lad of skeptical views. He and I made a walking tour one summer, and late on a certain evening we stopped at a lonely farmhouse and asked for shelter for the night."

"The old woman who owned the farm

welcomed us. She had a simple, pious mind, and she insisted on our taking part with her in evening prayers.

"At the prayer's end my skeptical companion attempted to deride her pious 'Do you really believe,' he said, 'that men are made of dust?'"

"The good book says so. Therefore, I believe it," said the old woman.

"How about wet weather, then, when there is no dust when there is only mud? What is done then?" said my friend.

"The old woman looked at him and laughed.

"When there is only mud," she said, "infidels and such like truck are made."

WHEN A WOMAN WISHES SHE WERE A MAN.

When he gives his hair a neat brush and his coiffure is complete.

When the children cry and he can whistle a tune, get his hat, bang the door and go out.

When he trips up the street ahead of her on a rainy day with his trousers jauntily turned up and no skirts to "arry."

When he can wear his best hat in the rain without getting the curl out of the feathers.

When he doesn't have to twist his arms to hook his bodice up the back or drag six superfluous yards of dress goods behind him—and do it gracefully too.

When he doesn't have to kiss his sworn enemy and tell him how sweet he looks.

THE INVENTOR OF ICE CREAM.

A French chef who prepared the dish for the Duc de Chartres in 1774 is said to have made the first ice cream. Lord Bacon was aware of the process of congelation by means of snow and salt, but to him it was a scientific fact of greater or less interest, and he had no idea of the delightful possibilities of this process on various eatables.

Iced drinks and water ices were known to the Parisian epicures a century and a half before they were introduced into England, the dainties having probably come from the far east by the hand of some traveler who had tasted sherbet.

Baby Mine

Every mother feels a great dread of the pain and danger attendant upon the most critical period of her life. Becoming a mother should be a source of joy to all, but the suffering and danger incident to the ordeal makes its anticipation one of misery. Mother's Friend is the only remedy which relieves women of the great pain and danger of maternity; this hour which is dreaded as woman's severest trial is not only made painless, but all the danger is avoided by its use. Those who use this remedy are no longer despondent or gloomy; nervousness, nausea and other distressing conditions are overcome, the system is made ready for the coming event, and the serious accidents so common to the critical hour are obviated by the use of Mother's Friend. "It is worth its weight in gold," says many who have used it. \$1.00 per bottle at drug stores. Book containing valuable information of interest to all women, will be sent to any address free upon application to BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

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